James Baldwin on A Kidnapping Which Never Happened, P. 2

Dallas Police Wonder Whether Oswald Was FBI Informer, Houston (Tex.) Paper Reports

"DALLAS—Was Lee Harvey Oswald a stool pigeon for a federal government agency? That's the question being asked by many people in responsible positions here. . . . Oswald did know of Joe Hosty, the FBI agent who handles subversive matters in the Dallas FBI office. 'He had Hosty's phone number, office phone and car license numbers,' said Bill Alexander, assistant district attorney to Henry Wade and one of the state's most able prosecutors. . . .

"Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, mother of Oswald, had a terse *'no comment'* when asked if her son had told her he was or had at least been asked to be an informant in anti-subversive work. She did not deny it. However she was quoted in the Philadelphia Inquirer as saying her son had been approached by a government agent to be an informer.

"Inasmuch as she had no direct contact with her son after Sept. of 1962, the contact, if made, would have been before she went to work for a Fort Worth matron in the same month and indicated to her employer that 'Lee was doing important work.' The social matron said she got the impression from Mrs. Oswald that Lee Oswald was doing some sort of work for the Federal government. . . .

"Informed sources in Dallas tell of seeing a report forwarded to the commission investigating President Kennedy's death that states that 'at 2:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22' an FBI agent told Dallas police the FBI knew of Oswald and had conducted some surveillance of him. If this is true, veteran police and sheriff's investigators ask, their watch on Oswald must not have been too good or they would have noticed the possible significance of his working in a building on the route of the motorcade.

"It is this point that has led to speculation by police and sheriff's deputies in Dallas that Oswald might have been an informant because, as one put it, 'you just wouldn't think to check out one of your own stoolies'."

—Houston, Texas, Post, Jan. 1, 1964.

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Only One Place to Build A New Canal and Run It That Way

Where a people's interest and pride is concerned, as ours is in the Panama Canal, nothing is harder to see than the obvious. In 1956 we made it possible, by our intervention, for the Egyptians to seize and keep the Suez Canal. We forced Britain, France and Israel to withdraw their troops, in large part because our big oil companies didn't want the Arabs "upset." Panamanians naturally find this bit of history interesting.

The Rare Assets of The Poor

Both Egypt and Panama regard the canals across their territory as national assets, on which they should be able to cash in; they have too little else. The Egyptians drew revenues of $115 million from their Canal in 1961 and almost $120 million in 1962. From 1936 to 1955 the Panamanians got only $430,000 a year for their Canal rights; since 1955, this has been $1,930,000 a year. This looks pretty paltry as their share of the $58 million in tolls we collected last fiscal year. What makes it look worse is that the tolls are still, thanks to the U.S. shipping lobby, what they were before World War I. The Panamanians feel, as their Ambassador said on CBS *Face The Nation* (Jan. 19), that they are indirectly subsidizing "the Merchant Marine of the U.S. and of the world by permitting those low tolls to be in force today as they were 50 years ago."

No country in Central America, whether Colombia, or Nicaragua, or Mexico, is going to let us build a canal across its territory, and run it the way we have run the Panama Canal. Nobody is going to give us a grant in perpetuity. Nobody is going to give us sovereignty over the land around a Canal and let us put up a fence to keep its citizens out. Nobody is going to let us fix rates without asking them, and juggle the accounts any way we please, charging off against revenues many items which have only a remote connection with running the Canal. There is only one place we could build and run a canal that way and that would be straight across the USA from New York to Los Angeles. Short of that, we ought to stop talking nationalistic nonsense and negotiate a revision of the treaty to give Panama a break, establishing conditions of joint operation which would restore Panama's self-respect and good neighbor relations. *Jan. 20*

Before Castro Was Born

Mr. [Paul] NIVEN (CBS News): Mr. Boyd, our Secretary of State and Secretary of the Army have said that while the dispute originally broke out between U.S. students in the Canal Zone and Panamanian students, it was quickly exacerbated by Communist agents, some of whom had only recently arrived in Panama. . . . Secretary of the Army Vance said that ten persons suspected of being agents, including one sniper, had been taken into custody by Panamanian authorities at the request of the U.S. Army. Is this not correct?

Ambassador BOYD: My government has instructed me to deny emphatically that there was any participation of Communists in Panama.

Mr. NIVEN: In other words, you are taking the position that Castroite agents or Communists have had no part in this from beginning to end.

Ambassador BOYD: Sir, we are taking the strong position that this is a nationalistic movement and that it would be a terrible mistake if we mislead the public opinion of this country by saying that Castro or Khrushchev had something to do with it. This is a problem that we have been living with before the Bolshevik Revolution or before Castro was born.

—CBS Face The Nation, Jan. 19.

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New Government Discoveries in Products and Planning Methods Could Enrich Civilian Life

Humphrey Proposal for Special Jobs Commission Opens Creative Prospects

Labor, civil rights and peace groups can find a useful vehicle for common action in supporting the bill introduced by Senator Humphrey (with the support of Senators Hart and Clark) for a 32-man Commission on Automation, Technology and Employment. Its authority would be broad enough to deal with the problem of jobs in every respect, from improved technology to armament cutbacks. It would have to report within two years and this report could have historic impact. Among other things, the Commission would be instructed to study and report on the incidence of automation "upon particular occupations and groups of workers" and to examine new technical developments resulting from Federal research in the arms and other programs "with a view to discovering those areas potentially most promising for civilian and industrial exploitation."

Whole New Industries Possible

Industry has been slow to tap promising civilian applications of weapons and space research. Humphrey told the Senate (Jan. 15) "whole new industries could be created in this way." Humphrey said cutbacks in bases, military personnel and uranium output "must not be permitted to result in reduced gross national product or increased unemployment." He called attention again to the insistence of the Pentagon on classifying as secret the survey made by his disarmament subcommittee of some 360 defense contractors to learn their attitude toward the impact of arms cuts on the economy. The survey turned up unexpectedly optimistic results.

One passage in Humphrey's speech was of special interest to those who believe large-scale economic and social planning necessary to handle the problems of automation and disarmament. "A whole new 'systems approach' to large-scale problems," Humphrey said, has been developed in government-sponsored research. This involves highly expert people and disciplines working together. We must plan to translate this skill and this method to large-scale problems of the Nation, in regional development, city planning, transportation, air and water pollution, and more."

Humphrey saw jobs enough to absorb all the country's manpower if we were to learn to cope with "the sheer logistical problems of living" in urban areas. "The possibilities now opening up to release some money from the requirements of defense and the prospect of more to come," he said, "project us both into the possibility of planning ahead and make that planning a necessity." The Commission would be empowered to initiate disarmament reconversion planning by principal defense contractors and it could become a means for launching the kind of pragmatic joint action by public and private enterprise which has proven so fruitful in countries like France and Sweden. Industry and labor would each have three representatives on the Commission.

Better Lung Cancer than Psychosis?

"As the poet has said, there is good and bad in everything. The history of America and the history of tobacco run parallel. Tobacco was once used here as money. And it has been smoked here for over 350 years—with satisfaction. And that, in itself, is a commentary. Who can say with assurance that we would have been better off without tobacco? I want to make it clear that I am not a tobacco raiser, though in our State much tobacco is grown—and Maryland is noted for its high-quality tobacco.

"I am not a scientist. I cannot discuss this issue on a scientific basis. However, let me interject one idea of a layman on the subject of health. Mental health is a subject much in the public mind. Psychiatry has come into its own because of the stress and strain of the present day. Most doctors will tell us, I believe, that this stress and strain accounts for much of the disability of today. Possibly we need more relaxing, more contemplation. And may I ask, what better tool for relaxing, for contemplation, than a good smoke? Let us be sure that we do not kill one evil with perhaps a bigger one."

—Beall (R. Md.) to the Senate, Jan. 14.

James Baldwin Appeals for Justice in A Kidnapping Case Where No One Was Kidnapped

"I want to call your attention to a case which is crucial for the civil rights movement and for justice in America.

"This is the so-called kidnap case in Monroe, N.C. This is a 'kidnap' case in which there was no kidnapping; in which a white couple took refuge in a Negro leader's home during the disturbances following a police-encouraged riot against Freedom Riders and local Negro pickets. After a brief stay the white couple went their way unharmed. Yet this incident has been made the basis for legal charges carrying a mandatory sentence of 20 years and maximum of life imprisonment.

"Three young men—two Negro teenagers from Monroe and a white Freedom Rider from New York—were arrested several days later and held for 64 days in the medieval conditions of the local jail before this committee was able to secure their release on heavy bail. A fourth defendant, a Negro mother, who had been in Monroe helping in the civil rights effort there, has just been extradited from Ohio after a two-year legal battle to Monroe, N.C.

"Monroe's Negro leader, Robert F. Williams, informed that he 'would soon be hanging' from a tree in the courthouse square, fled with his family and found safety in exile. After his flight, he, too, was included in the indictment which serves as an effective bar to his return since no one questions that the racially discriminatory and prejudiced juries of the area would unhesitatingly and regardless of evidence give him a life sentence.

"For almost two and a half years now the prosecution has refused to bring the three young men defendants to trial. This is not only a denial of their constitutional right of speedy trial but constitutes a refined form of torture. The deliberate prolongation of the case also exhausted the financial resources of this defense committee and served to dim the case in the public consciousness.

"Now, however, we expect the case to come to trial in February. It is vital that we prevent innocent people from being victimized because they fought for racial justice in America. The defendants must be afforded the best legal defense possible and the facts of the case must be brought to the conscience of the American people."

—James Baldwin, on behalf of the Committee to Aid the Monroe Defendants, 168 W. 23rd St., N.Y.C., 11.

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Carey Exposes Plan to Let U. S. Chamber of Commerce Pick Oil Man's Successor on AEC

Time Labor and the Consumer Had A Voice on the Atomic Energy Commission

The day labor leaders met with President Johnson for lunch at the White House, James Carey of the UERMWA sent him a letter protesting that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce was being allowed to pick the successor to Robert E. Wilson on the Atomic Energy Commission. This was confirmed in *Nucleonics Week* (Jan. 9) which said the U.S. Chamber "presumably at Wilson's suggestion, has submitted a recommended list of candidates to Chairman Seaborg" and that "President Johnson will be counselled to recruit a successor from industry."

Leo Goodman A Labor Candidate

Carey, James Patton of the Farmers Union and Dr. Russell H. Morgan of Johns Hopkins, one of the country's most eminent radioologists, are supporting a labor candidate for the vacancy. He is Leo Goodman, secretary of the Atomic Energy Technical Committee in the Industrial Union Department of the AFL-CIO. In the past 10 years the indefatigable Mr. Goodman has made an international reputation as an authority on atomic problems.

There has never been a labor representative on the Atomic Energy Commission in all its history. Though a number of independent-minded scientists and public officials have served on it, the AEC has tended to be pretty firmly under the control of the military-industrial complex. Under the chairmanships of Strauss and McCone, it shared military hostility to any cessation of testing and the reluctant industrial point of view toward peaceful development of the atom. It has been industry-minded in dealing with worker health and safety problems. The lack of candor which marks its record on fallout also marks its record in this field. Wilson himself, a retired chairman of Standard Oil of Indiana, was several times attacked by Senator Anderson on the ground that he represented an industry which produced a competing fuel and wanted to block atomic power for civilian uses.

Carey's letter seems to have blocked the plan swiftly and quietly to provide a like-minded successor from industry. Mr. Goodman was a labor candidate for the AEC in 1962 when there were two vacancies. He would give a voice not just to labor but to the consumer. Most important of all he would provide a creative influence in dealing with the problem of converting atomic industry to peaceful uses as military stockpiles grow beyond any possible need and more progress is made toward disarmament. Carey spoke with vision of this problem in his testimony on the test ban treaty before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last Fall. He listed a series of atomic projects for underdeveloped areas which would open up the enormous potential of the atom and "wash away the terrible image of the mushroom cloud." A labor man on the AEC could help make these ideas a reality.

A Double Danger We Should Not Ignore

That underground test in Nevada January 16 was the 100th announced underground test since testing resumed Sept. 1961 and the 15th since the nuclear test ban treaty was signed last Fall. It was a large one—somewhere between 20 and 200 kilotons. No venting was reported by the AEC next day, but underground tests often do vent, discharging radioactivity into the atmosphere. This has a double significance. E. A. Martell claims in the Jan. 10 issue of Science that venting from underground tests is a major source of radioactive iodine. Venting is also important because Article I of the nuclear test ban treaty pledges the signers not to test underground if such explosion spreads radioactive debris outside its territory. The heavy volume of U.S. underground testing may provoke the Soviet military to press for resumption; radioactive debris from such tests might provide the excuse. Are these tests really necessary?

Somebody Ought to See Whether That Little Man in the Soviet Bank Is Still There

"Constructive Step in the Cold War. More Public Disclosures By the CIA Held Valuable Service to the Nation."

—David Lawrence's column Washington Star, Jan. 16.

"Several authorities on the Soviet economy are questioning a recent Central Intelligence Agency estimate that Russia's gold holdings have fallen to less than $2 billion. . . . Leon Herman, the Library of Congress senior specialist on Soviet affairs, says the CIA's estimate was speculative and that 'common sense points in the other direction.'

"Mr. Herman and other economists who did not wish to be named said that if Russia were facing a gold squeeze it most likely would have sought credits for its multi-million dollar wheat imports instead of paying in cash. . . . A recent memorandum on Soviet gold prepared within the Government has become available. This memo puts Soviet annual production at between $182 and $206.5 million a year, higher than the CIA's estimate."

—Washington Star, same day, same page.

"The new estimates on Soviet gold production and reserves, published in Washington this week by the CIA have caused considerable surprise among experts in London. They [the CIA estimates] place Soviet gold output at $150m a year, which would correspond to 4,300,000 oz., compared with the estimates of the U.S. Bureau of Mines —an official Government Bureau of the highest technical qualifications—of 12,200,000 oz. for 1962 and 11,800,000 oz. for 1961. . . .

"With production estimates coming up against insurmountable difficulties, any guesses on the prevailing Soviet gold reserves appear to experts completely useless unless their source could claim the confidence of the leaders of the Government or at least of the President of the Soviet State Bank.* The question which the publication of these new estimates has raised on this side of the Atlantic, indeed, is not so much the accuracy, or otherwise, of the figures but the CIA's purpose in publishing them at all. It might have served the agency's reputation better if it had kept its estimates to itself.

"Meanwhile the Soviet authorities do not appear to be particularly worried about the reported 'smallness' of their gold reserve. They, at any rate, continue to pay cash for their wheat purchases right up to the present time, even where credit facilities are available."

—Financial ("City") Editor of the London Times, Jan. 10.

* The CIA in rebuttal seems now to be claiming that its estimates are based in part on a new defector. Some U.S. newsman in Moscow ought to drop by and see whether that little man behind the cash register in the Soviet State Bank (and the cash register) are still there.

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Voluntary Methods Fail to End Skilled Union Labor's Traditional Hostility to The Negro

Negro Squeezed Between Automation and Lily-White Apprenticeships

While automation dries up unskilled and semi-skilled jobs for Negroes, pushing unemployment among them to depression proportions, it does create new opportunities at the skilled levels, where openings are plentiful. But here Negroes are denied "the opportunity for training." In effect, therefore, the Maryland Advisory Committee reports to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, "Negroes are squeezed out at both ends of the job spectrum." This Maryland report was one of nine "Reports on Apprenticeship" from advisory units in eight States and the District of Columbia just released by the Commission.

Poorly printed by offset from hard-to-read typewriter copy (for lack of funds) this volume deserves more attention than it is likely to get. It shows that the apprenticeship system, as operated by U.S. trade unions, remains a basic obstacle to real equality of opportunity. The apprenticeship program has a medieval guild flavor; its main aim is to maintain scarcity of skilled help and it tends to create an almost hereditary privileged class in the ranks of labor.

North Differs Little From South

The Negro is the main victim. In Washington, D.C. where 55 percent of the population is non-white, only 5.5 percent of the apprentices in the building trades are Negroes. The North's record is not substantially different from the South's in this respect. In Connecticut Negroes constituted only seven-tenths of one percent of the apprentices. In New Jersey, they were less than half of one percent—15 Negroes out of 3,980 apprentices. The Federal Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training after 25 years of existence is only now and reluctantly being pushed into action in this field. Even so, of 15 Maryland programs approved by the Bureau, 10 had no Negroes at all and five had three or fewer Negroes enrolled. Of the 50 crafts and trades in Tennessee's apprenticeship programs, only eight included Negro apprentices—and four of these were connected with all-Negro unions. In 1960, Negroes were 22 percent of New York City's population but only 2 percent of the apprentices were Negroes.

After A Quarter of A Century

"The [Commission on Civil Rights] hearings of 1961 focused public attention on the [Federal] Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training for the first time in its quarter century of operation. Negro exclusion from the programs was debated vigorously. . . . Questioning by the subcommittee chairman established that the Bureau itself did not employ Negroes as field representatives or in positions above GS-5, and that the Director of the District of Columbia Apprenticeship Council, a Bureau staff person, followed the practice of marking the application forms of Negroes for apprenticeship with a '2 or N' as an identification of the applicant's race. The racial designations were ordered stopped by the Secretary of Labor before the hearings had adjourned, but it was not until March 4, 1963, that the Dept. of Labor could announce the hiring of the Bureau's first Negro field representative."

—Report on Apprenticeship, U.S. Civil Rights Commission, January 20. A footnote indicates that the Bureau was itself found guilty by the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity of anti-Semitic attitudes toward a militant State supervisor.

Some figures supplied by the D. of C. committee are of special importance. The proportion of Negro apprentices where apprenticeship committees were run jointly by labor and management showed 8.9 percent Negro. Where the training was by managment alone, the proportion of Negroes was 29.2 percent. The figures speak eloquently of the racism in the working class itself. The Commission's staff editors note with quiet despair, "As long as the Federal government depends on such voluntary relationships with management and the unions, perhaps little real progress can be expected." The New York advisory unit recommends as a final resort that Congress "enact legislation declaring that admission to apprenticeship in the construction trades is a matter affecting interstate commerce" and that such admission be regulated by an agency analogous to the Civil Service Commission. Agitation for law of this type would at least help to put more heat on our lagging trade union movement.

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